



CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

NOVEMBER 1978 30

President: Mrs R. Mills.
Min Sec : Mrs B. Singleton.
Newsletter Ed: Mr E. Perkins.

Gen Sec : Mr M. Winterbottom
Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove.

General Meetings are held at the Castlemaine Education Centre (SEC Building, Mostyn St) at 8 p.m. on the second Friday.

Visitors and prospective members are invited to attend the Club's sessions.

THE BIRD ATLAS

The article from the Atlas Newsletter printed overleaf explains very well the purpose of the Atlas.

The aim is to record over all of Australia on an approximately 16 kilometre (10 minute) grid all of the Australian Birds and their nesting habits.

There are three kinds of records required

- (a) Historical Atlas - Records up to the end of 1976
- (b) Main Atlas - current records.
- (c) Unusual records.

HOW TO TAKE PART

"Any bird-watcher may help to collect data."

"To take part, you need not be familiar with all Australian birds, but you are expected to identify accurately all those you record. WHEN IN DOUBT, OMIT."

"We seek an even coverage of 1° blocks for the whole continent, but if possible, pinpoint your observations to sample 10' blocks in each 1° block." (See map in the centre pages).

"In a block, do your best to find and record all species present and all those breeding in it. Try to visit all of the habitats in the block e.g. stream, pond, forest, farmland etc., and where possible, do so at different times of the day and night and at different times of the year."

"Such an intense coverage of a grid block will not always be possible. Casual records made during a short visit to a block or while travelling, particularly in the more remote areas, are also valuable in ensuring that the Atlas truly represents the distribution of birds rather than observers."

"Observations should be entered in notebooks in the field and then transferred to the record sheets, (from which computer cards will be punched). In this way-

- (a) You can check any doubtful observations at leisure
- (b) You will retain in your field notebook a complete record, should you need to fill in an Atlas Unusual Record Report Form.
- (c) You will retain your own personal record of behaviour, population, habitat etc."

Unusual Records The Unusual Record form should be filled out for unusual records and sent in with the Record Sheet.

The Atlas and You

Supplement to RAOU Newsletter 30

The President of the RAOU, Dr. Stephen Davies, introduces the first Atlas Newsletter.

As an undergraduate I was bombarded by enthusiasts about the Botanical Society of the British Isles' latest craze. It was to plot the distribution of the plants of Great Britain using a gridded map. Not only that but it was all going to be done with a computer, then a new word. I doubt if I grasped much of the significance of the analysis plans, nor of the objects of the whole project, but I greatly enjoyed dashing out to odd bits of the British Isles, Galway Bay for example, and recording plants on the neat little cards provided free by the Society. The Atlas of the British Flora was published over ten years ago and has been a cornerstone of the steady planning of nature reserves in Britain, their management and the assessment of damage in such disasters as the Dutch Elm Disease, ever since. It was the first of the biological Atlases, prepared by a co-operative effort of an amateur society. It showed that the job could be done, and dozens of Atlases around the world—frogs, seaweeds, birds, mosses—Atlases of a whole range of organisms in many different countries, followed.

Now our own ornithological Atlas is really under way. For years the Council, the Field Investigation Committee and a host of organisers and helpers in pilot atlas schemes have been saying 'do you think we can do it?', really meaning 'do you think that we shall get funds to do it?' Last year the Commonwealth Government showed us plainly that they wanted this sort of survey done and were willing to fund it. The RAOU got to work in a way that I think it is true to say, it had hardly dreamed possible before, and this year the Field Atlas Scheme has been launched, well supported by Commonwealth money and backed by a massive response to a publicity campaign over the Christmas holidays. Nearly a thousand enquiries were received following that publicity and there is little doubt that this kind of co-operative ornithology fills an empty niche in many people's enjoyment of the bush.

That is a very important point. Atlas work is enjoyable. It helps people to learn more about the beautiful birds around them in an enjoyable way. But that is not just why the Department of Environment, Housing and Community

Development is so keen to help us. They can see great usefulness in the work we are undertaking. It will give Australia a picture of the changing distribution of a group of organisms over the period of European settlement. There will then be a clear factual statement about what birds have declined and what have increased, which have spread and which have retracted their range. This information simply doesn't exist in a form that allows governments—local, state and federal—to assess the priorities of what to do first. What species is in most urgent need of protection, which one is doing well without help. It will also enable locality lists to be compared on a standard basis, so that areas particularly rich in bird species can have priority in reservation.

The Atlas of Australian Birds is the first biological atlas of Australia to be attempted in such detail. Many of the methods appropriate overseas will be in-

appropriate here, but many of the methods we work out will be applied widely to other groups of organisms in

Australia.

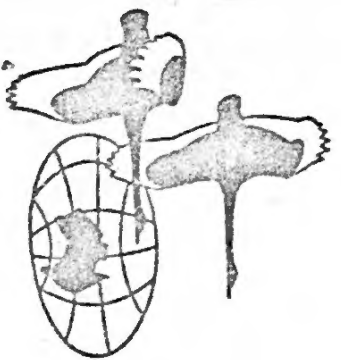
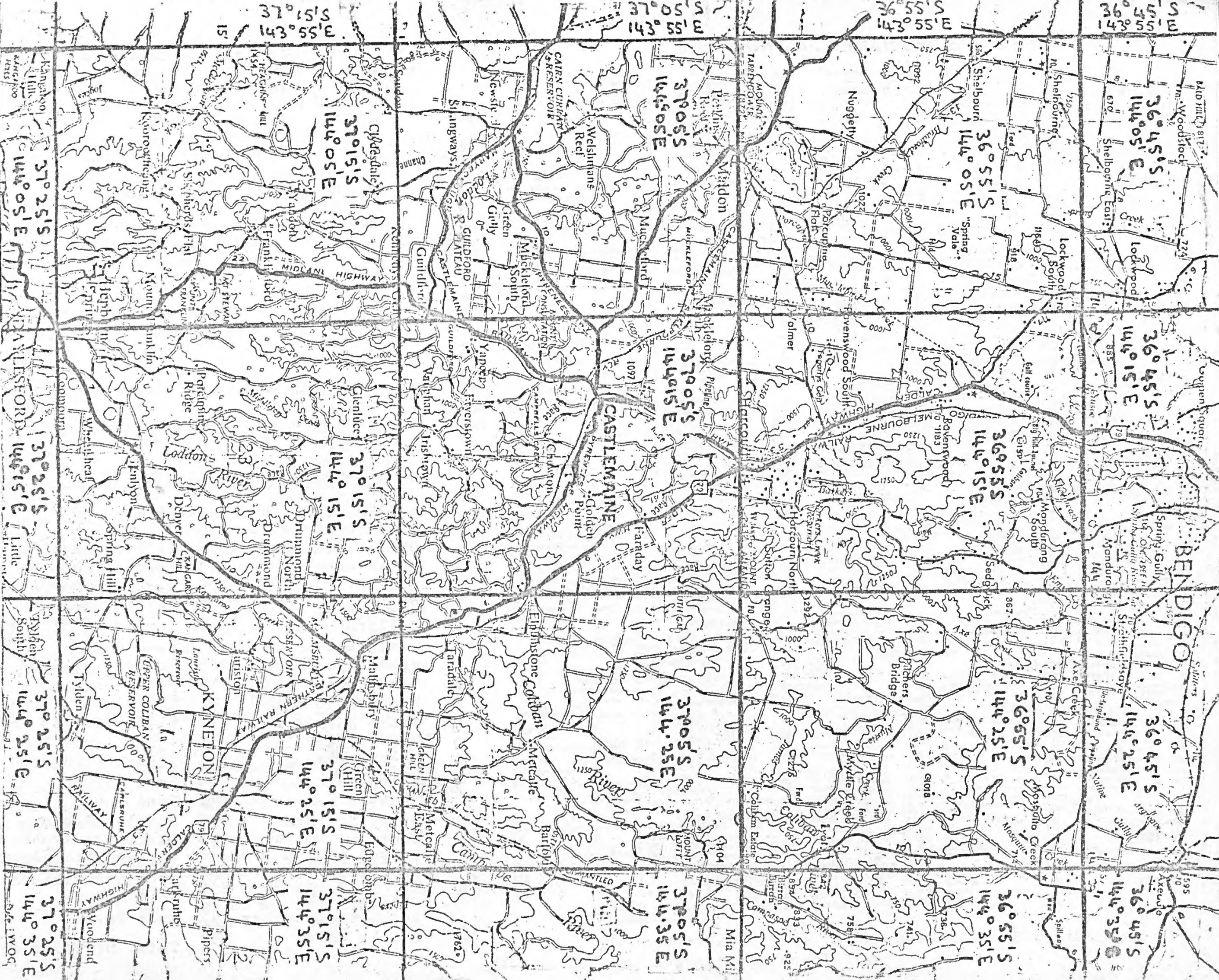
Anyone who has had even a little bit of experience atlassing will know its excitements and the enjoyment that comes with days in the bush that have a clear object and are contributing to new and fundamental knowledge. Anyone who has not yet tried atlassing is missing a treat. You need to know nothing to start and will be amazed that learning is such fun.

Let me just ask two things of you. Be patient with the overworked staff at Dryburgh Street who will answer your letter as soon as they possibly can. And do look for nests; the willie wagtail has still only been recorded breeding in six of Western Australia's grid blocks.

Stephen Davies,
President. RAOU.

BIRD ATLAS NESTING RECORDS FOR THE 1° BLOCK 37°30' S, 144°30' E

Little Grebe	061	Spotted Dove	989	Jacky Winter	377
Pied Cormorant	099	Galah	273	Restless Flycatcher	369
Whitefaced Heron	188	Crimson Rosella	282	Willie Wagtail	364
Black Swan	203	Eastern Rosella	288	Clam Reed Warbler	524
Mountain Duck	207	Red-rump Parrot	295	Superb Blue Wren	529
Black Duck	208	Pallid Cuckoo	337	Whitebr Scrub Wren	488
Mallard	948	Sacred Kingfisher	326	Weebill	465
Grey Teal	211	Bee-eater	329	Brown Thornbill	475
White-eyed Duck	215	Welcome Swallow	357	Yel-rump Thornbill	486
Wood Duck	202	Fairy Martin	360	Red Wattlebird	638
Black-shld Kite	232	Pipit	647	Yellface H/eater	614
Swamp Harrier	219	Bl-face Cuckoo Shr	424	Wh-plume H/eater	625
Peregrine Falcon	237	White Wing Triller	430	Wh-naped H/eater	578
Little Falcon	235	Common Blackbird	991	New Hllnd H/eater	631
Brown Falcon	239	Song Thrush	992	Spotd Pardalote	565
Nankeen Kestrel	240	Rose Robin	384	Striated Pardl	976
Dusky Moorhen	056	Scarlet Robin	380	Silvereye	574
Coot	059	East. Yellow Robin	392	Goldfinch	996
Masked Plover	133	Rufous Whistler	401	House Sparrow	995
Domestic Pigeon	957	Grey Shrike Thrush	408	Common Starling	999
Magpie Lark	415	Aust Magpie	705	Common Myna	998
Dusky Woodswallow	547	Aust Raven	930	Wh-wing Chough	693
Little Raven	954	Total Breeding Records: 67			



THE CASTLEMAINE GRID

The numbers in each grid refer to the latitude (degrees and minutes south of the equator) and longitude (degrees and minutes east of Greenwich) of the centre of each block.

e.g. Chewton is 37° 05' S and 144° 15' east.

Note that the grid system is the same as that used for the Club records, but that the numbering system is different.

BHL

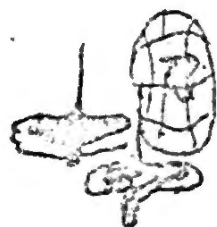


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KEY TO SPECIES NAMES AND NUMBERS

NON-PASSERINE		IBIS		BUTTON-QUAIL		Sharp-tailed Spiper		Long-billed Corelia	
EMU	001	Glossy	178	Red-backed	013	Pectoral Spiper	978	Little Corelia	271
CASSOWARY	002	White	179	Painted	014	Red-necked Stint	162	Pink	270
GREBE		Straw-necked	180	Chestnut-backed	015	Long-toed Stint	965	Sulphur-crested	269
Great Crested	060	SPOONBILL		Buff-breasted	016			ORIENTAL PARROT	
Hoary-headed	062	Royal	181	Black-breasted	017	Curlew Spiper	161	Eclectus	275
Little	061	Yellow-billed	182	Little	018	Sanderling	166	Red-cheeked	276
LITTLE PENGUIN	005			Red-chested	019	Broad-billed Spiper	167		
ALBATROSS		PIED GOOSE	199	PLAINS-WANDERER	020	ORIENT PRATCOLE	172	LORIKEET	
Wandering	086	TREE-DUCK		RAIL		AUST PRATINCOLE	173	Rainbow	254
Black-browed	088	Whistling	204	Land	046			Red-collared	255
Grey-headed	090	Plumed	205	Water	045	SKUA		Scaly-breasted	256
Yellow-nosed	089	SWAN		Chestnut	047	Great	980	Varied	257
White-capped	091	Black	203	Red-necked	048	Arctic	128	Musk	258
PETREL		Mute	906	Marsh Crake	050	Pomarine	945	Purple-crowned	259
South Giant-petrel	929	FRECKLED DUCK	214	Spotted Crake	049			Little	260
North Giant-petrel	937	CAP BARRN GOOSE	198	Spotless Crake	051	GULL		FIG-PARROT	261
Cape	080	SHELDUCK		White-browed Crake	052	Silver	125	LONG-TAIL PARROT	
Great-winged	075	Mountain Duck	207	Bush-hen	053	Pacific	126	King	281
White-headed	077	Burdekin Duck	206	Tasman Nativehen	054	South Black-back	981	Red-winged	280
Gould	078	DABBLING DUCK		Blacktail Nativehen	055			Superb	277
PRION		Black	208	Dusky Moorhen	056	TERN		Regent	278
Medium-billed	941	Mallard	948	Swampen	058	Gull-billed	111	Princess	279
Antarctic	084	Grey Teal	211	COOT	059	Caspian	112	Cockatiel	274
Slender-billed	942	Chestnut Teal	210	CRANE		Common	953	GROUND PARROT	
Fairy	083	Shoveller	212	Brolga	177	Arctic	952	Swamp	311
SHEARWATER		Garganey	209	Sarus	898	Roseate	113	Budgerygah	310
Flesh-footed	072	Pink-eared	213	BUSTARD	176	White-fronted	114	SWIFT PARROT	309
Wedge-tailed	069	WHITE-EYED DUCK	215	LOTUSBIRD	171	Black-naped	119	ROSELLA, ALLIES	
Sooty	070	PERCHING DUCK		STONE-CURLEW		Sooty	120	Red-capped Parrot	290
Short-tailed	071	Wood Duck	202	Bush	174	Bridled	121	Green	285
Fluttering	068	White Pygmygoose	200	Beach	175	Little	117	Crimson	282
Hutton's	913	Green Pygmygoose	201	PAINTED SNIPE	170	Fairy	118	Yellow	284
Little	067	STIFF-TAIL DUCK		OYSTERCATCHER		Crested	115	Adelaide	283
STORM-PETREL		Blue-billed	216	Pied	130	Lesser Crested	116	Eastern	288
Wilson's	063	Musk	217	Sooty	131	NODDY		Pale-headed	286
White-faced	065	OSPREY	241	LAPWING		Common	122	Northern	287
COMMON DIVINGPET	085	SMALL KITE		Masked Plover	133	Lesser	123	Western	289
PELICAN	106	Black-shouldered	232	Banded Plover	135	White-capped	124	Mallee Ringneck	291
GANNET		Letter-winged	233	PLOVER, DOTTEREL		FRUIT-PIGEON		Port Lincoln Parrot	294
Australian	104	CRESTED HAWK	234	Grey Plover	136	Black-banded	024	Red-rumped Parrot	295
Red-foot Booby	103	TRUE KITE		East Golden Plover	137	Purple-crowned	023	Many-colour Parrot	296
Masked Booby	105	Black	229	Red-kneed Dott	132	Red-crowned	021	Golden-shldr Parrot	300
Brown Booby	102	Square-tailed	230	Hooded Dott	138	Wompoo	025	Hooded Parrot	301
DARTER	101	Black-breasted	231	Mongolian Dott	139	Torres Strait	026	Blue Bonnet	297
CORMORANT		Brahminy	227	Double-banded Dott	140	Topknot	027	Bourke's Parrot	304
Black-faced	098	Whistling	228	Large-billed Dott	141	TYPICAL PIGEON		Blue-winged Parrot	306
Pied	099	GOSHAWK		Oriental Dott	142	White-headed	028	Elegant Parrot	307
Little Pied	100	Brown	221	Red-capped Dott	143	Domestic	957	Rock Parrot	308
Black	096	Sparrowhawk	222	Black-fronted Dott	144	Spotted Dove	989	Orange-bell Parrot	305
Little Black	097	Grey	220	Australian Dott	145	Laughing Dove	988	Turquoise Parrot	302
FRIGATEBIRD		Red	223	STILT		BROWN PIGEON	029	Scarlet-br Parrot	303
Greater	094	EAGLE		Pied	146	BRONZEWING, DOVE		PARASITIC CUCKOO	
Lesser	095	Wh-br Sea-eagle	226	Banded	147	Peaceful Dove	030	Oriental	336
REDTAIL TROPICBD	107	Wedge-tailed	224	Avocet	148	Diamond Dove	031	Pallid	337
HERON		Little	225	TURNSTONE	129	Bar-shoulder Dove	032	Brush	339
Great-billed	184	HARRIER		SANDPIPER, CURLEW		Emerald Dove	033	Chestnut-breasted	340
White-necked	189	Spotted	218	Eastern Curlew	149	Comm Bronzewing	034	Fan-tailed	338
White-faced	188	Swamp	219	Whimbrel	150	Brush Bronzewing	035	Black-eared	341
Pied	190	FALCON		Little Whimbrel	151	Flock Pigeon	036	Rufous-tail Bronze-	342
Cattle Egret	977	Black	238	Wood Spiper	154	Crested Pigeon	043	Shining Bronze-	344
Large Egret	187	Peregrine	237	Grey-tailed Tattler	155	Squatter Pigeon	039	Little Bronze-	345
Little Egret	185	Little	235	Wandering Tattler	156	Partridge Pigeon	040	Rufous-brst Bronze-	346
Plumed Egret	186	Grey	236	Common Spiper	157	White-quill Rock	037	Indian Koel	347
Reef	191	Brown	239	Greenshank	158	Chsnt-quill Rock	038	Channel-billed	348
Mangrove	193	Nankeen Kestrel	240	Marsh Spiper	159	Spinifex Pigeon	042	PHEASANT COUCAL	349
NIGHT-HERON	192	MOUND-BUILDER		Terek Spiper	160	Wonga Pigeon	044	HAWK OWL	
BITTERN		Scrubfowl	006	SNIPE		PALM COCKATOO	263	Rufous	247
Little	195	Malleefowl	007	Japanese	168	BLACK COCKATOO		Powerful	248
Black	196	Brush-turkey	008	Chinese	169	Red-tailed	264	Boobook	242
Brown	197	QUAIL		GODWIT, SANDPIPER		Glossy	265	Barking	246
JABIRU	183	Stubble	009	Black-tailed Godwit	152	White-tailed	266	BARN OWL	
		Swamp	011	Bar-tailed Godwit	153	Yellow-tailed	267	Barn	249
		Brown	010	Knot	164	Gang-gang	268	Masked	250
		King	012	Great Knot	165	WHITE COCKATOO		Grass	252
						Galah	273	Sooty	253

A sample sheet: Sheets can be obtained from E. Perkins.



Name J. Gould
Address 99 Rosbud Lane
Rockingham WA
Postcode 6168 Phone 095-041041

Grid Reference
Lat 35° 25' S
Long 150° 25' E
Block Size 0° 10'
Period of Observation

Locality Ulladulla
Map Used WAC 1:1,000,000
64 Edn
State NSW

Office Use Only		H.O. Only		Grid Reference		Back		Species Observed															
No.	Year	Obs. No.	No. Sp.	Lat (S)	Long (E)	Day	Min	Year	Day	Min	Year	Sp. No. A	Sp. No. B	Sp. No. C	Sp. No. D	Sp. No. E	Sp. No. F	Sp. No. G	Sp. No. H	Sp. No. I	Sp. No. J		
647	3572	4342	574	995	380	1109	1977	3010	1977	0341	125	069	115	005	14								
014	662	614	3922	3611	027	359	224	221	226	208	210	203	144	28									
143	1312	282	377	398	401	976	362	524	471	488	486	478	529	42									
470	558	188	099	096	638	605	547	240	930	705			56										
													70										
														81									
														93									
														112									
														126									

Other Species and Breeding Notes:
976 - Eastern Striated (red wing spd, narrow wing bar). Two birds entering hole in dead tree often, carrying food.
Providence Petrel - beach washed
027 - Unusual Record Report Form encl
357 - 5 eggs
424 - 2 fledglings

Patched: _____
Verified: _____

PTO. (PTO if necessary)

Our Contact is
Dr David Peters
19 Rawson Court
Heathmont 3135

Atlas Office is
RAOO Head quarters
119 Dryburgh St
Wth Melbourne 3051